

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT R. FISCHER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Herb Fischer as he retires from a long and distinguished career in education. His service and commitment to California's schoolchildren, and to his community, have provided an example for us all.

Dr. Fischer received his undergraduate degree in business administration from California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo. He later earned his teaching credential, master's degree, and doctorate from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Fischer served his 38-year career in education in San Bernardino County, beginning as a classroom teacher. He later served as a principal and district administrator in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, where he remained for 22 years. One of his chief accomplishments was his administrative support for San Bernardino City Unified's Desegregation and Integration Magnet School Program. This has been a model in providing quality programs for all students and offers parents and students more educational choices. Dr. Fischer also served as superintendent of the Colton Joint Unified School District for 7 years. There he directed a staff of over 2,500 employees. In 1998 Dr. Fischer was elected to serve as County Superintendent, where he oversees the programs and operations of the County Superintendent of Schools Office, which has an annual operating budget of \$250 million.

Under Dr. Fischer's leadership, the County Superintendent of Schools Office has prioritized services to support school districts' efforts to improve student performance and accountability. This has included closing achievement and access gaps for underperforming schools and underrepresented students, improving postsecondary education and career readiness, and ensuring safe school campuses.

Among other accomplishments during Dr. Fischer's tenure, the County Superintendent of Schools Office lead a county-wide emphasis to improve student performance collectively with district superintendents, resulting in increased scores on the State Academic Performance Index for 7 consecutive years. He also was responsible for the construction of the county's first permanent school site, the Dorothy Gibson County High School in Ontario, and six additional schools to improve housing for the 6,000-plus special and alternate education students served by the county. Dr. Fischer also established three regional councils to provide seamless education, and close access and achievement gaps for students, and launched the Alliance for Education initiative that has over 1,500 business, labor, community, and faith-based partners working with public schools to improve the college, career, and labor readiness of students.

For his outstanding leadership and contributions to education and the community, Dr. Fischer has been recognized by many organizations. He was awarded the University of California, Riverside Alumni Association's prestigious Alumni Public Service Award for his service to the public sector. He has been recognized by the Rialto/Fontana Chapter of the NAACP, the Victor Valley African American, and Inland Empire Hispanic Chambers of Commerce for building collaborative relationships to benefit the education of all students throughout San Bernardino County. Most recently, the Mount Baldy Chapter of the Building Industry Association recognized Dr. Fischer for his leadership in developing partnerships with business leaders.

Throughout his long career in education and public service, Dr. Herbert R. Fischer has consistently provided for stronger communities and higher educational attainment, and he has provided a model of exemplary service to us all. I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his retirement. •

PRAISE FOR THANKSUSA AND TENNESSEE SONGWRITERS

• Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, today I praise the efforts of ThanksUSA and two of Tennessee's outstanding songwriters, Leslie Satcher and Monty Holmes. This weekend, these parties will join together to perform a charity concert for our country's Armed Forces.

ThanksUSA is a nonpartisan charitable endeavor to encourage Americans of all ages to "thank" the men and women of the United States Armed Forces by providing academic scholarships for their children and spouses. ThanksUSA offers two interconnected programs: the national treasure hunt and the military family scholarship program. The treasure hunt raises awareness and money for the scholarship program.

This weekend's charity concert would not be possible without the talent and performances of Ms. Leslie Satcher and Mr. Monty Holmes. In the traditional Tennessee spirit, Ms. Satcher and Mr. Holmes have volunteered to perform their own country music hits to entertain the attendees.

With dreams of making it big in country music, Satcher moved to Nashville to put her song writing skills to the test. After a church friend encouraged her to show her work to Larry Strickland and Naomi Judd, Satcher's career in country music officially began, and her dreams became a reality. Leslie is no stranger to charity concerts as she is frequently found on stage performing for benefits with other country music celebrities.

Another gifted songwriter and performer, Monty Holmes, will join Satcher in the evening's benefit concert. At a young age, country music was instilled in Monty Holmes. With a

grandfather who played the fiddle, guitar and piano, Monty grew up with a love of music. As a young adult, Holmes moved to Nashville and quickly gained a reputation for both his voice and his words. Writing songs for some of country music's greatest artists, Holmes quickly earned a prominent place in country music.

It is a privilege to serve in the Senate on behalf of Tennesseans such as Leslie Satcher and Monty Holmes, who personify the voluntarism and patriotism of Tennessee. Leslie and Monty have shared many stories, memories, and inspirations through the mouthpiece of country music. I thank them and ThanksUSA for their efforts. I cannot think of a more valuable way to express our gratitude for our troops than with the gift of education. •

TRIBUTE TO JUDY GORMAN

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations to a South Dakotan who has been very committed to the educational well-being of the young people in my State.

For the past 6 years, Judy Gorman has served as executive director of the Department of Defense program, STARBASE. Exclusively designed for young adults, STARBASE provides science, math, technology and engineering skills through hands-on experience in aviation and space-related fields. She has served as an effective liaison with schools, military, community, and business leaders and has worked tirelessly to develop a superb curriculum in the community of the Black Hills.

In early August, Judy will retire from the program she has worked so hard to promote and foster. While executive director she has overseen 191 STARBASE classes of over 4,800 students, 2 manufacturing classes of 35 students, and 5 "Feel the Power" graduate classes. Her dedication to the STARBASE program was grounded in a 23-year career as an elementary counselor, special educator, and fourth grade teacher in the Rapid City Area Schools and Meade School District. She also has served as the administrator for Project Achieve, a summer youth program for at-risk teens in the Rapid City area. For many years she supported and guided her husband, Mike Gorman, in his excellent leadership as the Adjutant General of the South Dakota National Guard.

I commend Judy for her years of great stewardship with the STARBASE program. I had the privilege of touring the facilities a few years ago, witnessing first-hand the importance of the program and commitment Judy brings to her students. There are few better rewards for an educator than witnessing countless students expanding their horizons, applying science, math, and engineering in aviation and space-related fields of study. You may expect this from high school, college,